

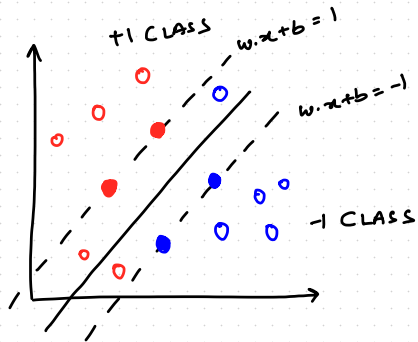
SVM Soft Margin Classification

Nipun Batra

July 21, 2025

IIT Gandhinagar

"SLIGHTLY" NON-SEPARABLE DATA

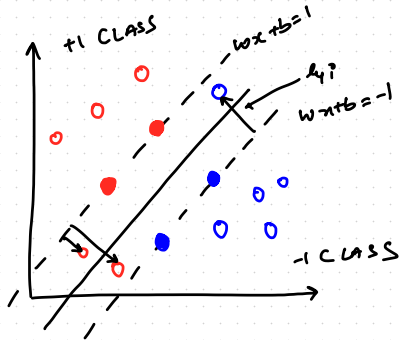


- Can we learn SVM for “slightly” non-separable data without projecting to a higher space?

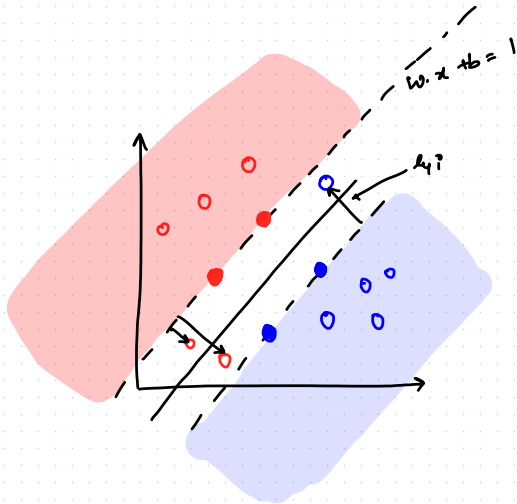
- Can we learn SVM for “slightly” non-separable data without projecting to a higher space?
- Introduce some “slack” (ξ_i) or loss or penalty for samples - allow some samples to be misclassified

"SLIGHTLY" NON-SEPARABLE DATA

e_{yi} : Distance from margin



ZONE 1
 $y_i = +1$
 $w \cdot x_i + b \geq r$



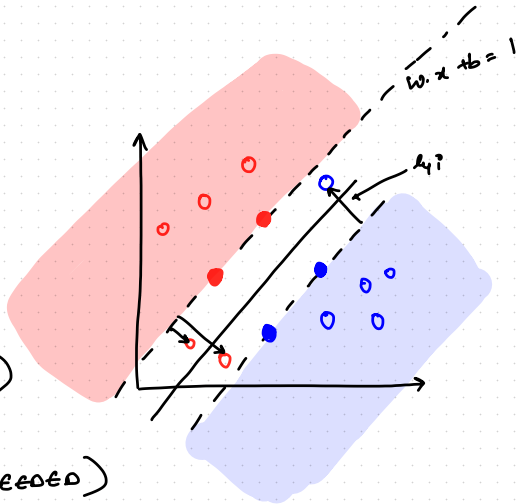
ZONE 1

$$y_i (\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_i + b) > 1$$

$$\text{Loss}_i = 0 \quad (\eta_i = 0)$$



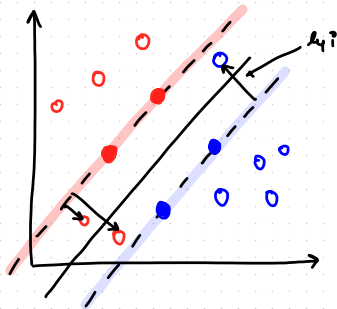
NO PENALTY
(OR SLACK NEEDED)



ZONE 2

$$y_i (\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_i + b) = 1$$

$$\text{Loss}_i = 0$$
$$(\eta_i = 0)$$



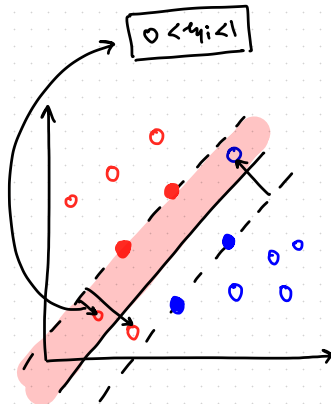
ZONE 3

$$y_i (\bar{w} \cdot \bar{x}_i + b) < 1$$

$$\text{LOSS}_i \neq 0 \quad (0 < \eta_i < 1)$$

POINT CORRECTLY
CLASSIFIED

(BUT WRONG
SIDE OF MARGIN)



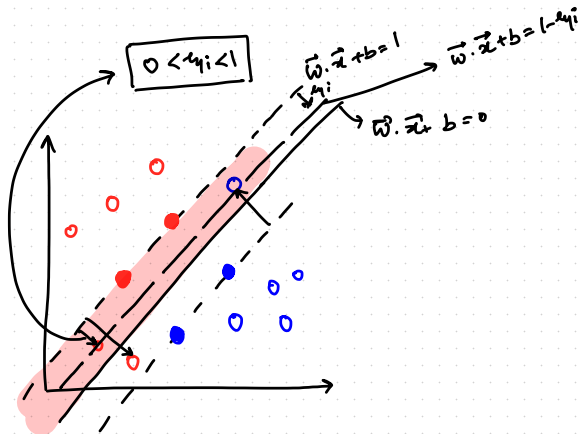
ZONE 3

$$y_i (\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_i + b) < 1$$

$$\text{LOSS}_i \neq 0 \quad (0 < \eta_i < 1)$$

POINT CORRECTLY
CLASSIFIED

(BUT WRONG
SIDE OF MARGIN)



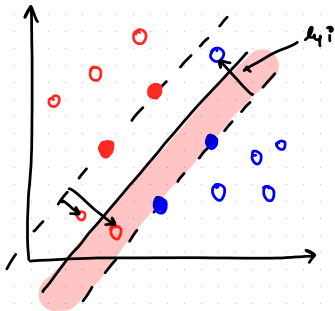
ZONE 4

$$y_i (\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_i + b) < 1$$

POINT INCORRECTLY
CLASSIFIED

$$\text{Loss}_i \neq 0$$

$$h_i > 1$$



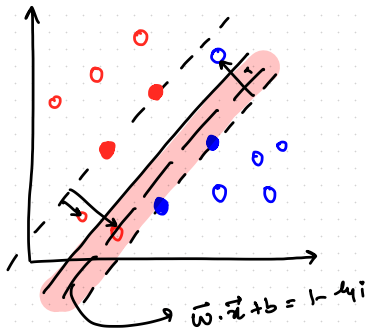
ZONE 4

$$y_i (\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_i + b) < 1$$

POINT INCORRECTLY
CLASSIFIED

$$\text{Loss}_i \neq 0$$

$$\eta_i > 1$$



Change Objective

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \frac{1}{2} \|\bar{\mathbf{w}}\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^n \xi_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y_i(\bar{\mathbf{w}} \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i + b) \geq 1 - \xi_i \end{aligned}$$

Change Objective

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \frac{1}{2} \|\bar{\mathbf{w}}\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^n \xi_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y_i(\bar{\mathbf{w}}\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i + b) \geq 1 - \xi_i \end{aligned}$$

In Dual:

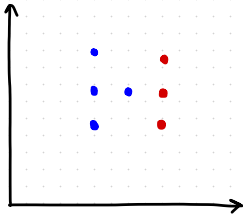
$$\text{Minimize } \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \bar{\mathbf{x}}_j$$

s.t.

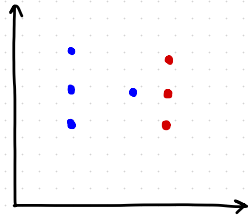
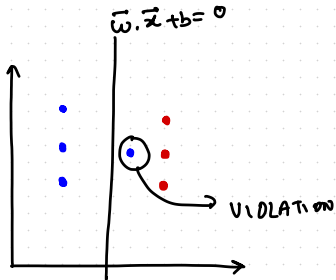
$$0 \leq \alpha_i \leq C \quad \& \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

BIAS - VARIANCE

TRADE-OFF

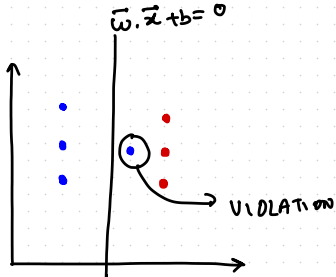


BIAS-VARIANCE TRADE-OFF

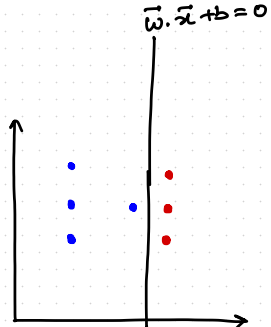


LOW C
LOW PENALTY FOR VIOLATION
HIGH TRAIN ERROR
HIGH BIAS

BIAS- VARIANCE TRADE-OFF



LOW C
 LOW PENALTY FOR VIOLATION
 HIGH TRAIN ERROR
 HIGH BIAS
 BIG MARGIN



HIGH C
 HIGH PENALTY FOR VIOLATION
 HIGH VARIANCE
 SMALL MARGIN

Bias Variance Trade-off for Soft-Margin SVM

Low $C \implies$ Higher train error (higher bias)

High $C \implies$ Very sensitive to datasete (high variance)

Soft-Margin SVM

If $C \rightarrow 0$

Objective $\rightarrow \min \frac{1}{2} \|\bar{w}\|^2$

\Rightarrow Choose large margin (without worrying for ξ_i s)

$$\text{Recall: Margin} = \frac{2}{\|\bar{w}\|}$$

If $C \rightarrow \infty$ (or very large) Objective $\rightarrow \min C \sum \xi_i$ or choose W ,
 b , s.t. ξ_i is small!

Q) What is the equivalent of hard margin?

a $C \rightarrow 0$

Q) What is the equivalent of hard margin?

a $C \rightarrow 0$

b $C \rightarrow \infty$

Q) What is the equivalent of hard margin?

a $C \rightarrow 0$

Q) What is the equivalent of hard margin?

a $C \rightarrow 0$

b $C \rightarrow \infty \implies$ No violations!!

Types of support vectors:

- Zone 2: $y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b) = 1$

∴ As C increases, # support vectors decreases

Notebook: SVM-soft-margin

Types of support vectors:

- Zone 2: $y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b) = 1$
- Zone 3: $0 < \xi_i < 1$ (correctly classified)

\therefore As C increases, # support vectors decreases

Notebook: SVM-soft-margin

Types of support vectors:

- Zone 2: $y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b) = 1$
- Zone 3: $0 < \xi_i < 1$ (correctly classified)
- Zone 4: $\xi_i > 1$ (Misclassified)

∴ As C increases, # support vectors decreases

Notebook: SVM-soft-margin

SVM Formulation in the Loss + Penalty Form

Objective:

$$\min \frac{1}{2} ||\bar{w}||^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i$$

Now:

$$y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b) \geq 1 - \xi_i$$

$$\xi_i \geq 1 - y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b)$$

But $\xi_i \geq 0$

$$\therefore \xi_i = \max [0, 1 - y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b)]$$

SVM Formulation in the Loss + Penalty Form

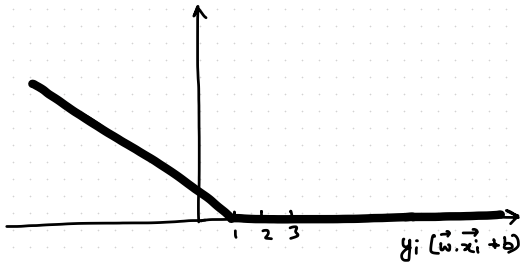
∴ Objective is:

$$\min C \sum \xi_i + \frac{1}{2} \|\bar{w}\|^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \min C \sum_{i=1}^N \max [0, 1 - y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b)] + \frac{1}{2} \|\bar{w}\|^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \min \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N \max [0, 1 - y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b)]}_{\text{Loss}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2C} \|\bar{w}\|^2}_{\text{Regularisation}}$$

HINGE LOSS



Loss Function for Sum (Hinge Loss)

Loss function is $\sum_{i=1}^N \max [0, 1 - y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b)]$

- Case I $y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b) = 1$

Lies on Margin: $Loss_i = 0$

Loss Function for Sum (Hinge Loss)

Loss function is $\sum_{i=1}^N \max [0, 1 - y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b)]$

- Case I $y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b) = 1$

Lies on Margin: $Loss_i = 0$

- Case II

$$y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b) > 1$$

$$Loss_i = 0$$

Loss Function for Sum (Hinge Loss)

Loss function is $\sum_{i=1}^N \max [0, 1 - y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b)]$

- Case I $y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b) = 1$

Lies on Margin: $Loss_i = 0$

- Case II

$$y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b) > 1$$

$$Loss_i = 0$$

- Case III

$$y_i(\bar{w}\bar{x}_i + b) < 1$$

$$Loss_i \neq 0$$

Hinge Loss Continued

Q) Is hinge loss convex and differentiable?

Convex: ✓

Differentiable: X

Subgradient: ✓

SVM Loss is Convex

Hinge Loss $\sum(\max[0, (1 - y_i(\bar{w}x_i + b))])$ is convex

Penalty $\frac{1}{2}||\bar{w}||^2$ is convex

\therefore SVM loss is convex